

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR
NEWS AND FUN**

The next time you're online, be sure to visit our website at concordma.gov/cmlp. You'll find all kinds of news and information about your electric service, including a link for online bill payment.

Kids can follow the Games link to find online games and fun facts aimed at teaching electrical safety and conservation. There is also guidance for adults to reinforce the lessons. It's a great way to spend some fun and educational time with the kids this summer.

Join our Google Group to cut the peak

Help reduce the town's peak demand for electricity this summer by joining Concord Light's Google Group (CMLP-CAP). Join the group to get an e-mail when peak electric demand is predicted so you can voluntarily reduce your electric use for a few hours.

Holding down peak demand is important because some 10% of each electric bill in Concord is directly related to the amount of electricity used here during just one peak hour in the entire year—typically during a hot summer weekday afternoon.

That one hour is costly due to regional electric system reliability requirements and the high cost of peaking power.



Cutting electric use during that one hour holds down Concord's wholesale power costs, which helps hold down bills for everyone. It also benefits the environment, since it minimizes the need to run our region's least efficient peak-use generating plants.

To join our group, send an e-mail with the subject and body blank to Cmlp-cap+subscribe@googlegroups.com. Google Groups will automatically send you a reply requesting a verification of the request. This has been set up as a one way e-mail system so members can only receive e-mails from this site.

Thanks for helping—please call us at 978-318-3102 with any questions.

These tips can help you stay cool for less



Before running your air conditioner nonstop this summer, take steps to cut your cooling costs:

- Check with an HVAC professional to make sure your central air conditioning system or window unit is the proper size for the space you need to cool. Units that are too small or too large waste energy.
- Clean or replace all air conditioning filters as recommended by the manufacturer for peak efficiency. Dirty filters cause air con-

ditioners to work overtime and waste energy.

- Set the thermostat to 78 degrees and leave it there. Lowering it won't cool the house faster, it just causes your AC to run longer.

- Reduce your need for air conditioning by using fans to draw cooler air inside at night and to circulate air throughout your home during the day.

- Close window shades and drapes to keep sun out during the hottest parts of the day. Open them at night to let cool breezes in.

- Clear outdoor air conditioning units of shrubs and debris. Shade window units, if possible.

On-demand water heaters have hidden costs

Chances are that you've heard of on-demand water heaters (also called tankless, instantaneous, continuous flow, inline, flash, or instant-on) that work without a storage tank. They provide hot water only as it is needed, often using an electric element. On-demand water heaters do save some energy by avoiding the standby heat losses associated with storage water heaters.

However, electric on-demand water heaters come with hidden costs. They are very power-hungry when they are on. What do we mean by power-hungry? Well, for example, a 100-watt bulb is twice as hungry as a 50-watt bulb. Some on-demand water heaters use as much power as 240, 100-watt bulbs when they are on.

Each year, Concord Light pays a hefty price just to have power plants waiting at the ready when big surges of power are needed by our customers—even if all that power is only used for brief periods.

Because hot water use tends to peak at certain times of day, on-demand water heaters increase the size of the spikes we must prepare for, increasing costs for all of our customers. Individual customers using these devices may incur additional charges from CMLP.

A better way to save

Therefore, in the interest of keeping electricity rates low, Concord Light does not recommend the use of electric on-demand water heaters. A better way to save on electric water heating costs is to take advantage of our reduced off-peak rate of 5.5 cents per kilowatt-hour. See story below on how to qualify. By comparison, on-demand water heaters are billed at the standard rate of 15 cents per kilowatt-hour.

To reduce overall energy use for electric water heating, consider a high-efficiency electric heat pump water heater. Visit energystar.gov to learn more.

EASY WAYS TO PAY

Online bill payment is a fast and convenient way to pay an electric bill from your checking account. To get started, visit concordma.gov/cmlp and follow the simple instructions. If you need help with the process, feel free to call us at 978-318-3101.

You can also pay your bills automatically with direct payment. Just sign up, and your electric and water bill payments will be automatically deducted from your bank account. Visit our website for a sign-up form, or call us for details.

Make the switch to hot water savings

More and more Concord residents are cutting their ELECTRIC water heating costs by making a simple switch. If your home has an electric water heater, we invite you to join them. It's easy, risk-free, and even benefits the environment.

Your savings will begin after we install an electronic switch on your home's electric water heater. The switch, which is activated through the power lines coming into your home, allows us to cycle power to your water heater off and on during periods of peak power use. In exchange, you'll qualify for Concord Light's reduced off-peak electric rate of 5.5 cents per kilowatt-hour for your water heating, a savings that can add up to hundreds of dollars a year.

Making the switch not only saves you

money, it also helps hold down power costs for the entire town by lowering the need for expensive peaking power. Participants also help the environment

because it reduces the regional need to run less efficient and often environmentally unfriendly peaking generators.

Most people won't notice their tank is controlled at all. However, if for any reason you aren't happy with your switch, we will cheerfully remove it at no cost to you. To sign up, or for more information, call us at 978-318-3101.



Concord Municipal Light Plant

Monday-Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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